

Compass Bearing #2
Devotions to Navigate the Coronavirus Pandemic
“Practicing Perseverance”
Thursday, March 26, 2020
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Nothing worthwhile comes easy.

We live in a world that offers microwave meals, movies on demand, and Instagram relationships. Many of us are tuning into up-to-date, breaking news about COVID-19 continually. We want what we want...now!

But life isn't experienced best that way. The most delicious meals are slowly sautéed, simmered, or steamed. The best memories are formed at a school auditorium, watching some kids perform their hearts out. The greatest friendships are forged through time spent together in the same physical space.

In last Sunday's message, I said there were three steps to overcoming a very difficult challenge:

Step 1: Impossible

Step 2: Difficult

Step 3: Done

There is nothing easy about these steps. There's no shortcut to anything worthwhile.

The Bible gives us great wisdom about the value of perseverance:

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:2-4)

Notice the flow. Trials and tests lead to perseverance. Perseverance leads to maturity. The question is not, "Will I survive the Coronavirus?" The question is, "What kind of person will be after this is over?" Here's a goal: "be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

Becoming a believer in Jesus...takes a moment.
Becoming a disciple of Jesus...takes a lifetime.

What aspects of your life need a good, strong dose of perseverance to make you more mature and complete, not lacking anything?